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JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND HIS MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS FOR NATION IN POST INDEPENDENT INDIA: A REVIEW

YASH PAUL

POSTGRADUATE STUDENT DEPARTMENT OF POLITICLE SCIENCE IGNOU DEHLI

ABSTRACT

Jawaharlal Nehru's years (1947-1964) as the first Prime Minister of the world's largest democracy have attracted the attention of historians and other social scientists. Most of the works on Jawaharlal have, however, tended to be biographical in nature, and sympathetic in content. Nehru was not only a leading light of the nationalist struggle, but he became the first Prime Minister of independent India, guiding the destiny of this country for a little less than two decades. Again, as one of the founding fathers of the Non-aligned movement Nehru made India a force to reckon with in international politics. It is thus often said that today, when India is faced with challenges to its economic political sovereignty and threats to the secular credentials of Indian constitution, that we need to return to the basic Nehruvian values of secularism, pluralism and welfarism and non-alignment to help the country out of its' present crisis. Being a Fabian Socialist and attracted by Soviet model of centralized planning, he constituted the Planning Commission in India to propel an all-round and balanced development of the country. Nehru was not only a popular leader among the masses but also a great administrator and a parliamentarian. Nehru guaranteed Universal Adult Franchise without discrimination against gender, caste, religion, and class. Nehru being thoroughly knowledgeable with international affairs had conceived the concept of "World Federation". The foundations of India's foreign policy were firmly laid by him. Like any other foreign policy maker, Nehru underlined India's national interest as the basic guiding principle. But even before he did that, Nehru, as head of the interim Government, had declared as on September 7, 1946, principal objectives of India's foreign policy.

Key Word: Non-aligned Movement, Foreign policy, Panchsheel, Peacefull Settlements, Cold War etc.

1. INTRODUCTION

colonial nationalist movement and an internationalist, he became known outside India in the 1920s and 1930s, speaking out against imperialism in other countries and expressing solidarity with anti-fascism and the republican cause in the country. Spanish Civil War. By the time of India's independence in 1947, he was already a world leader of some stature. Its importance grew, especially in relation to the aspirations of other emerging nationalisms in the colonial and ex-colonial world, who looked to India as an example, and with the Cold War, which created the desire of the great powers to have India strategically located both. geographically and ideologically, on their side. In India, his reputation as one of the greats of the Indian nationalist movement and recognition as the acknowledged political heir of Mahatma Gandhi made him a dominant figure in pre- and post-independence Indian politics.**1** Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964) was a key figure in Indian history, serving as the first Prime Minister of independent India from 1947 until his death in 1964. A prominent leader of the Indian National Congress and a central figure in the Indian independence movement, he was known for his role in shaping India's political and economic policies. Nehru advocated secularism, socialism and scientific progress, and his policies laid the foundation for the development of modern India. Nehru was born

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on November 14, 1889, in Allahabad, which is affection for children and his contribution to their welfare. Nehru was born into a prominent Kashmiri Brahmin family. His father Motilal Nehru was a successful lawyer and a leading figure in the Indian National Congress. Nehru's early education was at home under private tutors, followed by studies at the Harrow School in England. He then attended Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied natural sciences. After completing his studies, he returned to India and was called to the bar at the Inner Temple in London. Nehru's early life was marked by his exposure to Western education and ideas, which significantly influenced his political opinion and leadership style in the Indian independence movement. After returning to India from his studies in Britain, he joined the Indian National Congress and became deeply involved in the struggle for freedom from British colonial rule. During the 1920s and 1930s, Nehru became a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi and played a key role in organizing various campaigns such as the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Salt March. He was imprisoned several times for his activities. In the 1940s, Nehru's leadership became increasingly influential, and he was appointed vice-president of the Congress and later its president. His vision of India's future included a strong, democratic and secular state, which laid the foundation for his role as the first Prime Minister of independent India when the country gained independence in 1947.

According to Harris Mylonas, “nation-building and legitimate authority in modern nation-states is linked to popular government, to the majority. Nation-building is the process through which these majorities are constructed”.**2** Wimmer argues “that levels of state capacity in the late 19th century explain contemporary differences in levels of nation-building. State elites capable of providing basic public goods—including security, infrastructure, and the rule of law—across a territory can create far-reaching networks of support for different ethnic groups, rather than limiting such networks to their own ethnic clientele. According to Wimmer, long-term processes of state formation are better predictors of successful nation-building than political regimes or legacies of imperial rule".**3** Hechter defines nations as "territorially concentrated ethnic groups". Focusing on the transition from indirect to direct rule, he identifies different types of nationalism: state-building nationalism, peripheral nationalism, irredentist nationalism, unification nationalism, and patriotism. Hechter, like Gellner, defines nationalism as "collective action designed to make the boundaries of a nation coincide with the boundaries of its governmental unit".**4**

During the nationalist struggle, Nehru symbolized a leftist and secular force within the Indian National Congress. A visit to the USSR in 1927 gave him first-hand experience of the socialist experiment he had always loved. He remained the harshest critic of fascism and Nazism and went to Spain himself to boost the morale of the republicans fighting in the Spanish Civil War. He proved to be a source of inspiration especially to the young and downtrodden sections of Indian society, and when truncated settlement was imposed on the subcontinent on the midnight of August 15, 1947, it was this fiery nationalist who through his historic 'Tryst Manifesto' of Destiny' awakening to the world of India as a free nation. We recall here his role in the introduction of a planned economy, initiating the process of industrialization, the development of science and technology, to nurture the apparatus of political democracy and to support the secular spirit.**[5]** Nehru deserves credit for legitimizing the leadership position of the Congress in post-colonial India by seeking to create a "developmental state". As one of the founders of the non-aligned movement, Nehru again made India a force to be reckoned with in international politics. So, it is often said that today, when India is facing challenges to its economic political sovereignty and threats to the secular beliefs of the Indian constitution, we must return to the core Nehruvian values of secularism, pluralism and prosperity and not agree to bail the country out of the current crisis. Nehru helped create modern India by combining the process of nation building with democracy, socialism and secularism. Under Gandhi's leadership and with Sardar Patel, Nehru built the Indian "state" and the Indian "nation". But in the field of building systems, he was the chief architect, which no one could share with him.**6**

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2. ACHIEVEMENTS FOR NATION POST INDEPENDENT ERA

2.1 NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

Nehru's commitment to the Non-Aligned Movement was a cornerstone of his foreign policy. The movement was founded in 1961 by leaders from newly independent countries who sought to remain independent of the major powers of the Cold War, primarily the US and the Soviet Union. Nehru was one of its key architects, along with figures such as Yugoslavia's Josip Broz Tito and Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser. The basic idea of non-alignment was to avoid a formal alliance with any of the superpowers and instead focus on preserving national sovereignty and promoting peaceful coexistence. The aim of the movement was to provide a platform for countries to cooperate on mutual issues without getting embroiled in Cold War rivalry. Nehru saw the movement as a way for newly independent nations to assert their independence and influence in global affairs. He believed that it was imperative that countries like India, which had recently emerged from colonial rule, did not become pawns in the geopolitical struggles between the US and the USSR. Nehru's approach to non-alignment was pragmatic. Although India took a mixed stance, it did not avoid clashing with both blocs entirely. Under his leadership, India established diplomatic and economic relations with both the US and the USSR and balanced these relations to promote Indian interests. The movement gave developing countries a voice in global forums and aimed to create a fairer international order. It helped promote decolonization and strengthen solidarity between countries with common interests in economic development and political sovereignty. Nehru's commitment to non-alignment reflected his vision of an independent India that could navigate the complex global landscape of the mid-twentieth century without succumbing to external pressures or alliances.

2.2 NEHRU AND INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY

Nehru is the architect of India's foreign policy and his vision of foreign policy during his era was guided by a set of principles and objectives aimed at ensuring India's sovereignty, promoting peace and advancing the nation's interests in the world. global scene. Key aspects of Nehru's vision included: Non-Alignment: a policy of non-alignment, advocating that India maintain its independence from both the Western and Eastern Cold War power blocs. This approach was intended to protect India's autonomy, prevent association with any military alliance, and allow the nation to pursue its own interests without being drawn into conflicts. Peaceful Coexistence: Nehru believed in peaceful coexistence among nations, emphasizing diplomacy, negotiation and dialogue to resolve international disputes. He tried to establish friendly relations with other countries, despite ideological differences. Third World Solidarity: Nehru's foreign policy aimed to promote solidarity among the newly independent nations of the Third World. He believed in the importance of collective action in solving common problems such as economic backwardness and colonial legacy.

2.3 PANCHSHEEL AND NEHRU

Indian Policy makers understood the linkage between peace and development and survival of mankind. In view of the destruction caused by two world wars, they realized that for the progress of a nation a durable world peace was needed. Without global peace, social and economic development is likely to be pushed to the background. Thus, the founder of India’s foreign policy, Nehru gave utmost importance to world peace in his policy planning. For him, India desired peaceful and friendly relations with all countries, particularly the big powers and the neighbouring nations. While signing a peace agreement with China; he advocated adherence to five guiding principles known as Panchsheel. Panchsheel was signed on 28 April 1954 and since then it has become a guiding principle of India’ bilateral relations with countries also. Panchsheel includes the following five principles of foreign policy. Panchsheel,or the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, were first formally enunciated in the Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet region of China and India signed on April 29, 1954, which stated, in its preamble, that the two Governments “have resolved to enter into the present Agreement based on the following principles: - i. Mutual respect for each other’s

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territorial integrity and sovereignty, ii. Mutual non-aggression, iii. Mutual non-interference, iv. Equality and mutual benefit, and v. Peaceful co-existence.**7**

2.4 PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AND NEHRU

One of the core elements of India's foreign policy is its unflinching faith in the political solution and peaceful settlement of international disputes. This principle has been included in the Constitution of India, under the Directive Principles of State Policy as well as in the Charter of the UN. India has played leading role in the resolution of Korean conflict and supported negotiated settlement of Palestine issue, Kashmir problem, border problems with neighboring countries and other such disputes and problems. At present, India is in favour of resolution of peaceful settlement of Iranian nuclear issue, problem of democratic upsurge in Middle East and so on. India is always against foreign military intervention for resolving international problems. This principle continues to be the cornerstone of India's policy.

2.5 NEHRU-COLD WAR AND DISARMAMENT

Pandit Nehru, as the staunch advocate of the policy of non-alignment, knew very well the consequences of cold war after the second world war. The era of cold war marked all age of crisis, which disrupted peace and security of humanity. So Nehru remarked, "Till this crisis of spirit is resolved, it will be difficult to find a solution for other crises that afflict us"11 Pandit Nehru made reference to problems and causes of war and also the need for co-operation among nations to achieve world peace and security. So, the question of cold war according to Nehru, covered every quarter of the world. Every issue whether in the Western bloc or Communist bloc was a part of the cold war. To think in terms of cold war meant constant appeals to haffed violence, fear and suspicion, cold war come in the way of peace creating, problems. So, to get out of such evil consequences of cold war, Nehru switched over his attention, to the problems of peace and disarmament.

2.6 NEHRU AND THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations as the second systematic international organization was established after the Second World War to maintain international peace and security. It succeeded the League of Nations, the first international organization established after the First World War. The UN representing all the independent states of the world provides a unique opportunity for all the newly independent and militarily weak and small states, to play their decisive role in international politics without being directly involved in power politics of the two super powers. The UN perhaps is the only international forum which the states utilize is for defending their territorial integrity. Sovereignty and also securing economic and technical assistance, fighting against imperialism, racialism and controlling international conflict situations and promoting world peace, security and order. So it would be quite logical for the newly independent state like India to attach greater importance to the UN in her foreign policy calculations and to utilize the same to promote her national and international objective. The UN promotes the growth of peaceful world order. It provided an international environment conditioning or determining the foreign policy of India's national interest do mended that every effort must be made to develop an effective system of collective security through the UN. So, Nehru always believed in referring every issue to the forum of the UN. Like that Kashmir issue was also referred to the UN, at the initiative of Nehru. So, while making a statement in the Constituent Assembly (Legislature) on Kashmir on March 5, 1948 Nehru said "Our making a reference on this issue to the Security Council of the UN was an act of faith, because we believed in the progressive realization of a world order and a world government. In spite of many shocks, we have adhered to the ideas represented by the UN and its charter- but those any ideals reach as also certain duties and responsibilities to our own people and to those who put their trust in us".**8**

CONCLUSION

Nehru's major achievement for nation lies in the area of external relations as he kept foreign affairs under his strict control over seventeen years and made all the major foreign policy decisions himself merely getting consultation from his advisers and aides. Nehru was a man of great vision. He promotes peace throughout the

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world. Nehruvian concept of integrity and the idea of integration. Instead of relying on the much trumpeted call for national integration by the ruling power in Delhi, the time has come to develop a left-democratic alternative that seeks cultural pluralism, an extension of democracy to the grassroots, and the abolition of socio-economic discriminations that draw sustenance from the existing exploitative and oppressive socio-political structure. Nehru was an active parliamentarian and under his leadership all the problems and policies concerning the nation were meticulously debated. He held Parliament in high esteem and has set an example for others by remaining invariably present when parliament was in session. He also understood the importance of the Opposition in the Parliamentary Democracy and as such respected their views. So, Nehru's achievements to India we may easily be trapped by a desire to reflect on and describe nothing but India itself. In paying tribute to Jawaharlal Nehru, we remember a politician who, through his efforts in many fields, made an important contribution to opening up for his people the road to our present day world.

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